

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 448

By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Angelo Volpe, President of Tennessee Technological University, on the occasion of his retirement and to express appreciation for his many years of outstanding service.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those professionals who in their years of employment have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Angelo Volpe is one such estimable person who has served with probity for thirteen years as the President of Tennessee Technological University, the longest presidential tenure at any Tennessee publicly funded university; he is also the third longest-serving president at TTU; and

WHEREAS, a Brooklyn native, Dr. Volpe earned his undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Brooklyn College and his Master's degree and Ph.D. in Organic and Polymer Chemistry at the University of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, from 1961-66, Dr. Volpe served as a Civilian Research Scientist at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory; he taught for eleven years, beginning in 1966, at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, where he shared his knowledge with students,

first as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, then as an Associate Professor of Chemistry, and finally as a Full Professor of Chemistry during his final three years there; and

WHEREAS, from 1977-80, Dr. Volpe taught at East Carolina University as a Professor of Chemistry, as well as handling all of the department's administrative duties as Chairperson of the Chemistry Department; and

WHEREAS, from 1980-83, he served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at ECU; despite the rigorous demands of his administrative duties, Dr. Volpe still found time to teach Chemistry; and

WHEREAS, prior to his arrival at Tennessee Tech, Dr. Volpe's skills as an administrator and professor landed him the prestigious position of Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at East Carolina University where he served from 1983-87; and

WHEREAS, during his 13 years as President of Tennessee Technological University, Dr. Volpe served adroitly as a morale booster, a fundraiser, and as a friend to the students, faculty, and staff; he also earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues at Tech who say they will miss his spirited presence on campus; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Technological University is a better place as a result of Dr. Volpe's influence: fundraising increased from \$1 million in 1988 to currently over \$25 million, new undergraduate degree programs have been developed, a new state-of-the-art library, recreation center, and agricultural pavilion have been built, and enrollment has increased. Two Chairs of Excellence, the Leona Lusk Officer Black Cultural Center, and the Women's Center were established during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Volpe's valuable contributions to outreach efforts helped make possible a virtual embrace of a then-Soviet university through the Citizen Exchange Council as well as continued ties to another "sister" school, Dohto University in Japan. TTU is also welcoming another "sister" university, the Lower Silesian University College of Education in Poland; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure at Tech, Dr. Volpe has seen the University's scores on the Tennessee Board of Regents' "Report Card" improve; such success was noted in the *U.S. News and World Report* magazine's 1999-2000 issue which named Tennessee Technological University as one of the top regional universities in the South and the only public institution in Tennessee to be ranked in the top tier of Southern colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Volpe exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Angelo Volpe is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his devoted wife of 34 years, Jennette Murray Volpe. Dr. and Mrs. Volpe plan to continue living in Cookeville after his retirement; they have plans to travel, read, volunteer for community activities, and take part in his favorite past-time, baseball, specifically New York Yankees baseball; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Volpe has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential, winning the respect and admiration of his colleagues, the University's faculty, staff, and students, and members of the Cookeville community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we recognize and thank Dr. Angelo Volpe for his thirteen years of outstanding service and dedication to developing the minds of Tennessee's future leaders as the President of Tennessee Technological University, extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.